

MINUTES – JUNE 22, 2004

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners reconvened its meeting at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22, 2004. Members present: Mel O. Battle, Chairman, Larry G. Hamlett, Vice-Chairman. Nathaniel Hall, Jack W. Hooper, Cathy W. Lucas, Kenneth D. Travis, and George W. Ward, Jr. Also present: Jeffrey H. Earp, County Manager and Gwen Y. Vaughn, Finance Officer. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Board held a work session on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2004-2005.

The Board continued review and discussion of the SCHOOLS budget. Mr. Earp stated that a correction needed to be made to Schools Capital Outlay. Mr. Earp clarified that the amount requested by the Board of Education for Total Expenditures is actually \$394,500 and, therefore, the amount for Schools Capital Outlay should be increased by approximately \$50,000. Commissioner Hall expressed his concern for the lack of qualified Math teachers at the high school.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation by Commissioner Hall that the amount of \$205,000 be appropriated for Teachers' Supplement which would eliminate a proposed supplement for Administrators and appropriate \$6,000 in new monies to be restricted for the recruitment of Math and/or Science teachers. This recommendation was not approved by a vote of three to three with Commissioners Lucas, Travis, and Ward voting no and Commissioner Hamlett absent.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation by Commissioner Travis that the amount of Teacher's Supplement be no more than what will be given to County employees. This recommendation was not approved by a vote of five to one with Commissioners Battle, Hall, Hooper, Lucas, and Ward voting no and Commissioner Hamlett absent.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation by Commissioner Ward that the amount of \$205,000 be appropriated for Teacher's Supplement which would eliminate a proposed supplement for Administrators. This recommendation was not approved by a vote of four to two with Commissioners Battle, Hall, Hooper, and Travis voting no and Commissioner Hamlett absent.

The Board reviewed and discussed the PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the RECREATION DEPARTMENT budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the FARMER LAKE budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the ARTS COUNCIL budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS budget. Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation that Piedmont Health Services be reduced from \$5,000 to 0. This change was approved by the Board.

Mr. Earp informed the Board that NC FORESTRY has a surplus in its current budget and they have requested that the Board allow them to use some of these funds to purchase a computer and fax machine in the amount of approximately \$1,800. This request was approved by a unanimous vote with Commissioner Hamlett absent. Mr. Earp noted that the NC Forestry's operating budget now comes from General Funds instead of Vehicle Fire Tax as it has in previous years and the entire allocation from Vehicle Fire Tax will now go to all fire departments.

The Board reviewed and discussed the NC VEHICLE LICENSE OFFICE budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the SPECIAL GRANTS budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the DEBT SERVICE budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the CONTINGENCY budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the COURT FACILITY FUND budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the AUTOMATION ENHANCEMENT AND PRESERVATION budget with no changes made.

The Board held a brief recess.

(Commissioner Hamlett entered the meeting at this time).

The Board reviewed and discussed the LIBRARY budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the SPECIAL FIRE DISTRICT FUND budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the REVALUATION FUND budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM FUND budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the COUNTY BUILDING FUND budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the WATER & SEWER CAPITAL PROJECT FUND budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the EQUIPMENT/AUTOMATION FUND budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the SCHOOLS RESOURCE OFFICER budget with no changes made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND budget with no changes made. The Board discussed the proposed contract for Solid Waste Collection for the County. Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation by Commissioner Hooper that the Board proceed with the lowest bid. There was Board consensus to approve this recommendation with Commissioner Lucas voting no. Commissioner Lucas stated that her position is to rebid the entire Solid Waste Collection Project and to include a provision for pick-up at County-owned buildings which would eliminate an annual cost to the County of \$10,000.

The Board reviewed and discussed the CASWELL DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION budget with no changes made.

The Board again reviewed and discussed the TAX DEPARTMENT budget. Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation to retain the two current part-time employees and to fund one additional full-time Tax Clerk position. This recommendation was approved by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Battle, Hall, and Lucas voting no.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation that Professional Services be reduced from \$23,600 to \$20,000, with the County Attorney to process foreclosures for the Tax Department as his schedule allows. This recommendation was approved by the Board.

The Board again reviewed and discussed the MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT budget. Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation to approve the appropriation of

Capital Outlay funds in the amount of \$8,400 for the purchase of a John Deere lawnmower. This recommendation was approved by the Board.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation to approve the appropriation of \$11,400 to Value Paving for the paving of the Department of Social Services parking lot, if the requirement for a 50% deposit up front is waived. This recommendation was approved by a vote of five to one with Commissioner Lucas voting no and Commissioner Hamlett abstaining.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation to approve the appropriation of \$18,916.25 to Reedy Paving for the paving of the Health Department parking lot. This recommendation was approved by a vote of five to two with Commissioners Lucas and Ward voting no.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation that the appropriation for a new County gas pump be reduced from \$6,014.59 to 0. This recommendation was approved by the Board.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation to approve the appropriation of \$8,900 to S&S Siding & Windows of Burlington to install vinyl siding and gutters on the Section 8 Housing Building. This recommendation was approved by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Hamlett, Lucas, and Ward voting no.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation to approve the appropriation of \$4,200 to S&S Siding & Windows of Burlington to install vinyl siding and gutters on the Probation/Parole Building. This recommendation was approved by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Hamlett, Lucas, and Ward voting no.

The Board again reviewed and discussed the SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT budget. Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation by Commissioner Travis that the Sheriff's annual salary be increased from \$43,500 to \$48,500, thereby decreasing Salaries from \$783,505 to \$771,505. This recommendation was approved by a vote of six to one with Commissioner Lucas voting no.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation that Special Pay be increased from 0 to \$11,500, to be allocated for the Sheriff's Department's K9 handlers. This recommendation was approved by the Board.

The Board again reviewed and discussed the 911 budget with no changes made.

The Board again reviewed and discussed the EMS DEPARTMENT budget. Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation by Commissioner Travis that the EMS Department continue to operate as it is currently rather than convert to a fluctuating work week. This recommendation was approved by a unanimous vote with Commissioner Lucas abstaining.

The Board again reviewed and discussed the HEALTH DEPARTMENT budget. Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation by Commissioner Lucas that Fund Balance be reduced by \$40,000 to offset the local appropriation. This recommendation was approved by a vote of five to two with Commissioners Battle and Hall voting no.

The Board again reviewed and discussed the ELECTIONS budget. Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation that the Elections Director's salary remain at its current salary level, to include the cost-of-living increase. This recommendation was approved by the Board.

The Board again reviewed and discussed the SCHOOLS budget. Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation by Commissioner Hall that Teachers' Supplement be reduced from \$210,000 to \$205,000 and appropriate an additional \$6,000 to be restricted for recruiting a Math or Science teacher at the high school. This recommendation was not approved by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Hamlett, Lucas, Travis, and Ward voting no.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation by Commissioner Travis that Teachers' Supplement be reduced from \$210,000 to \$157,000, which would be the same amount as the increase recommended for County employees. This recommendation was not approved by a vote of five to two with Commissioners Battle, Hall, Hooper, Lucas, and Ward voting no.

Chairman Battle recommended that Teachers' Supplement be reduced from \$210,000 to \$205,000, which would be the same level of funding as last year and would eliminate the supplement for Administrators. This recommendation was approved by a vote of five to two with Commissioners Hamlett and Travis voting no.

Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation by Commissioner Lucas that Current Expense be reduced from \$2,247,832 to \$2,197,832. This recommendation was not approved by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Battle, Hall, Hooper, and Ward voting no.

Chairman Battle clarified that the correct amount for Capital Outlay should be \$394,500 instead of \$343,824. Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation by Commissioner Ward to reduce Capital Outlay from \$394,500 to \$334,500. This change was approved by a vote of five to two with Commissioners Battle and Hall voting no.

The Board reviewed and discussed the REVALUATION FUND budget. Chairman Battle stated that there is a recommendation that \$25,500 be increased to \$55,400. This change was approved by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Hamlett, Lucas, and Ward voting no.

The Board again reviewed and discussed the CONTINGENCY budget with no changes made.

RECESS

At 7:25 p.m. Chairman Battle moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to recess until Thursday, June 24, 2004, at 8:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

M. O. Battle
Chairman
